

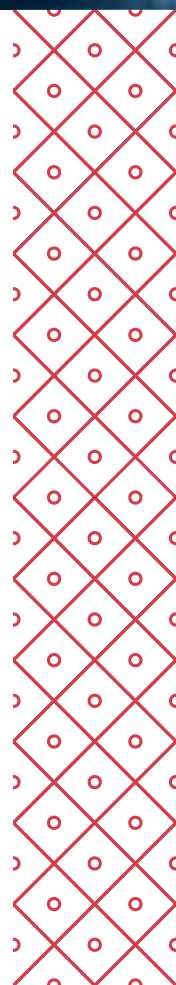


**Charles
University**



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship

(MSCA PF)



What is MSCA PF?

The purpose of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA PF) scheme is to support the career paths of researchers through **mobility** while attracting talented researchers to the EU.

The objective of the MSCA PF is to **support the careers of researchers and to foster excellence in research**. The Postdoctoral Fellowships action targets researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their **research activities abroad, acquire new skills, and develop their careers**. PFs help researchers gain experience in other countries, disciplines, and non-academic sectors.

All research areas can be funded. MSCA Fellows come from a wide variety of disciplines in eight main scientific areas: Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), and Physics (PHY).

**MSCA PF holders
often later become
ERC grant holders!**



Who is eligible?

Researchers interested in PFs:

- should have a **PhD degree at the time of the deadline for applications**. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered eligible to apply.
- must have a **maximum of eight years of experience in research** from the date of the award of their PhD degree. Years of experience outside research and career breaks will not count towards the above maximum, nor will years of experience in research in third countries for nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC) who wish to reintegrate into Europe.
- should **comply with mobility rules**: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or the host organization for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.

As of 2022, resubmission restrictions will apply for applications that received a score below 70% in the previous year.

The project must be conducted **together with a host institution** that is either located in an EU MS or AC.

Choosing the right scheme:

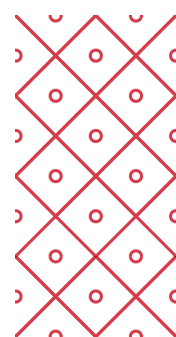
There are two types of Postdoctoral Fellowships:

European Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to researchers **moving within Europe or coming to Europe** from another part of the world to pursue their research career. These fellowships take place in an EU MS or AC and can last **between one and two years**. Researchers of any nationality can apply.

Global Postdoctoral Fellowships fund the **mobility of researchers outside Europe**. The fellowship lasts **between two and three years**, of which the first one to two years will be spent in a non-associated Third Country, followed by a **mandatory return phase** of one year to an organization based in an EU MS or AC. Only nationals or long-term residents of the EU MS or AC can apply.

Both types of fellowships may also include short-term secondments anywhere in the world during the fellowship (except during the return phase of a Global Fellowship).

In an effort to build bridges between the academic and non-academic sector, researchers can receive additional support to carry out a placement of up to 6 months in a non-academic organisation based in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. This placement needs to take place at the end of their fellowship.



Budget

The EU contribution will be **automatically calculated** from the information provided in Part A of the proposal using the rates and coefficients. The grant provides an **allowance to cover living, travel, and family costs**. In addition, the EU contributes to the **training, networking, and research costs** of the fellow, as well as to the **management and indirect costs of the project**.

Related funding

- [OP JAK MSCA](#) – proposals that achieved score of >70% will be eligible to apply for a so-called „MSCA-CZ“ funded from the Structural Funds and administered by MEYS – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
- [ERA Fellowships](#) an extra funding for postdocs applying with an institution from a Widening country (Czechia is one of them). In HORIZON, to get a Widening Fellowship you would have to score at least 90% (up to about 25 % of all applicants).
- [GAČR Postdoctoral individual fellowship incoming/outgoing](#) – eligible are Ph.D. holders with max. 4 years in research.

Objectives of the MSCA PF:

- To foster the mobility of researchers with high scientific potential.
- To support the development of their careers by acquiring and transferring skills.
- To strengthen the partnership between the researcher and the host institution.

The MSCA PF supports international and intersectoral mobility either **within the EU or internationally** (with a return phase to the EU).

The MSCA PF may be extended for a long-term research stay (from **12 to 24 months** (European Fellowship) + 12 months for the return (Global Fellowship)).

The fellowships focus on a **single training project through research** (career development) shared between the researcher, the host laboratory, and the laboratory of origin.

Secondments

Researchers who receive a Postdoctoral Fellowship have the **opportunity to include a secondment phase in a non-academic or academic sector during the time of their fellowship**. Secondments are possible in the same country or in another Member State or Associated Country.

The secondment should significantly **contribute to the career development** of the fellow and to the (scientific) impact of the fellowship. For a contract time of 18 months or less, the secondment may last up to three months. For a contract time of more than 18 months, the secondment may last up to six months. The secondment phase can be a single period or divided into shorter mobility periods.



Who is who in the MSCA PF

Principal Investigator (PI): researcher who proposes and holds the grant

Host Institution (HI) or Beneficiary: entity that hosts the PI. The host institution may be chosen without restrictions (universities, research organizations, universities of applied science, international organizations, enterprises, etc.). The host institution may not, however, be located in the country of residence of the applicant (mobility rule). The Beneficiary is the legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and has complete responsibility for the proper implementation of the action. It contributes directly to implementation of the research, transfer of knowledge, and training activities by recruiting, supervising, hosting, or training a MSCA-funded researcher.

Supervisor: The role of the supervisor(s) is to integrate the researcher properly within their organization so that all parties acquire the maximum amount of knowledge and skills from the fellowship. This includes ensuring that the foreseen training-through-research takes place, as well as providing support and guidance for the personal and professional development of the fellow.

Partner Organization: contributes to implementation of the action, but does not sign the Grant Agreement.

Evaluation of proposals

Proposals are **submitted in a single stage and evaluated in one step**. The evaluation of proposals is carried out by the REA with the assistance of independent experts.

A proposal will only be considered eligible if its **content corresponds to the topics and funding schemes**, including the specific eligibility conditions set out in the relevant parts of the Work Programme, and if it fulfils all the eligibility criteria.

Proposals are evaluated **on the basis of the award criteria** (Structure of the proposal):

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

At least three experts will assess each proposal independently.



The MSCA PF emphasizes the future career development of the researcher. Here you will find examples of training that Charles University (CU) offers. CU offers many types of training, as well as the individual faculties, which offer their own training programmes.

Workshop on ERC grants.

CU has developed the university ERC “pipeline”. Via this pipeline, researchers from the university are invited to the National ERC Info Day, which is organized together with the Technology Centre Prague (NCPs for HE). Those who receive an MSCA PF are automatically invited to the pipeline. Those who intend to submit an ERC are recommended to register for the ERC Workshop and submit a preliminary abstract of their proposal and the CV and track-record. CU also provides feedback, pre-screening and consultations during the grant preparation.

There are about twenty courses for postdocs developed according to the Research Competence Framework, focused on seven different competence areas.

The Open Science Support Centre offers a number of training activities focused on open access, research data management, and open research data.

The Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies offers a wide range of language courses. You can learn Czech or many other languages.

FAQ:

Q: Am I eligible for a family allowance?

A: You are eligible for a family allowance if you have a spouse or dependent child.

Q: I have doubts regarding the ethics assessment: if all the interviewees' names are anonymized, should I say yes to personal data processing?

A: Once you answer YES to some of the questions in the ethical assessment, you must state the page of your proposal where this is properly explained. Hence, the answer is yes, and you must provide a proper explanation in the proposal.

Q: Section 5: Capacities of the participating organizations: What should I provide there specifically? Is it a description of CU?

A: Yes. This is a description of CU, although focusing more on a faculty than CU. It is important to have information on the important projects at the faculty, etc.

Q: What is the secondment period?

A: The secondment period is an optional part of the fellowship. For example, if you are going to do field research for a longer period of time or you need to use another organization and its laboratory for several weeks/months or the local expertise there, you can include this organization in the proposal.



What you should keep in mind when preparing the application (most common mistakes):

- **Be consistent** (style of writing, abbreviations you use, naming the host organization, etc.).
- **The main research question/the aim of the project should be highlighted** (even visually in tables or graphs).
- **Research objectives should be well-structured**, even partial research objectives.
- Include information about **why the research topic is relevant** for several member states of the EU and therefore addresses more encompassing issues relating to society.
- **In part 1.2**, the project should also **adequately cover the general skills** needed to perform independent research work in a position of high responsibility (e.g. research management, financial project management, ethics).
- **In part 1.3**, the **host organization's experience in research training** should be highlighted as well as whether the proposed work fits in with the current priorities of the host organization. Information on the successful funding of research projects should be described in detail.
- **In part 1.4**, you should add **current information about your professional career and major accomplishments**, including when the PhD was obtained, record of participation in national and international projects, acting as a visiting researcher and lecturer/teacher (both home and abroad) and your ability to carry out research and education work in an international cooperative environment, leadership ability, and the potential to achieve a higher level of professional maturity and responsibility.
- **In part 2.1**, include information on how **the planned research and training activities will have an impact on your future career prospects** after the fellowship in view of a long-term career in academia and even outside the academic world.
- **In part 2.3**, make sure that the **research and results will be communicated to the public** in such a way that they can be understood by non-specialists. You can specify particular channels of internet presence, media articles, and your participation in European Researchers' Night events, etc. Communication activities should be adequately highlighted in the Gantt chart in the form of dedicated tasks.
- **Part 3.2** should contain information **about the organization and management structure**, progress monitoring mechanisms, research and/or administrative risks, and contingency plans.
- **Part 3.3** should indicate the **active contribution of the host organization** to the research and training activities.



Where can I get additional information?

European Centre, Rectorate, Charles University,
Ovocný trh 560/5, 116 36 Prague 1,
Adéla Jiroudková, Ondřej Daniel, ec@cuni.cz

European Commission Marie Curie Skłodowska
official web portal

National information Centre for European Research,
Technology Centre Prague,
Ve Struhách 1076, 160 00 Prague 6,
Lyudmyla Tysyachna tysyachna@tc.cz,
Zuzana Šimek (Čapková), simekz@tc.cz